FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

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March 2025

THE BEACON

Church and Community Magazine



Rector's Reflection
Lent and Easter services
Antiques Valuation Day
Two Apostles * Soup and pancakes
Town Council * Wayfarer * Old Fakenhamian

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www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk

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Parish Prayers

2 Mar North Drive, Thorpland Road, Lee Warner Avenue, Whitelands.
First Focus. Support groups in the town.

9 Mar Lancaster Avenue, Cranmer Court.
Care for the environment

16 Mar Nelson Road, Hamilton Court.
Prisons, prisoners, prison staff. Amnesty International.

23 Mar Alethorpe & Fulmodeston.
The media, writers and communicators.

30 Mar Eckersley Drive, Wigg Road, Arthur Road, Norman Close.
Families and family life.

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

12.2.25 Brian Parnell
20.2.25 Madeleine (Jill) Barker at Fulmodeston

Cover pic:
by The Revd Tracy Jessop.

"No, I'm afraid we don't have TV up here but we do have a good book you can read!"



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Rector's Reflection



Last month I turned 60. I'm not sure if that means I am now in the "old" category - definitely middle-aged, although in my mind I still think I'm 30.

When birthdays end in 0 or 5, I tend to take a little more notice and pause to think back on the past 'big' birthdays. It means I move to a feeling of gratefulness very quickly.

More than anything else, turning 60 made me aware of how grateful I am to people who have been and continue to be part of my life. To my parents, whom I never really expressed adequate gratitude to before their recent deaths. To friends, past and present, to whom I owe so much for their ongoing support and encouragement. To my close family, who aren't practising Christians yet are my biggest cheerleaders. To my partner Dee, who sacrifices so much to enable me to live out this ministry of being a priest.

I never dreamed that responding to a calling to a vocation in ministry back in 2014 would eventually lead me to be a parish priest, on a roller coaster ride over several years to land here in Fakenham. It has been, and continues to be, a life-giving and energising experience.

As I reflect upon this milestone, I am reminded that gratitude is a virtue deeply rooted in faith and crucial to our spiritual well-being. Colossians 3:17 urges us to encompass all our actions and words with thanksgiving, anchoring our lives in the name of the Lord Jesus. This act of giving thanks is transformative, grounding us in the true reality of our existence. It serves as a constant reminder of our dependence on God's grace.

If we can practise gratitude, we can be more aware of the blessings that shape our journey through life. It is a powerful lens through which to live. Whatever age you happen to be, my prayer is that you can look through a lens of gratitude daily.

Revd Tracy Jessop





Churches around Fakenham welcome *you* in March

Parish Church Upper Market Place, Fakenham NR21 9DY

Sun 2	10am Parish Communion
Weds 5	6.30pm Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes
Sun 9	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10am All Age Worship
	6.30pm Choral Evensong
Sun 16	10am Holy Communion
Sun 23	10am Holy Communion
Sun 30	10am Café Church on Mothering Sunday with Communion

Other Services

Every Thursday 9.30am Market Day Holy Communion (a short, said service)
Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 9.45am Stepping Stones for pre-school children with a grown-up.

Salvation Army Oak Street, Fakenham.
Every Sunday morning at 10.15 am

Methodist Church Chapel Lane, Sculthorpe. NR21 9QB
Morning service of worship 11am each Sunday

Fakenham Baptist Community Church
Sunday services 10:30-12:00 at Fakenham Community Centre

St Anthony RC Church Wells Road, Fakenham.
Sunday Vigil Mass every Saturday at 6.00pm
Sunday Mass at 10.45am and Tues-Fri at 10.00am

Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration, Scarborough Road, Gt Walsingham
Every Sunday morning 10.00am Hours 10.30am Liturgy.

Holy Trinity, Hempton *Contact: The Revd Dr Harri Williams SSC, harri1985@gmail.com*
Sunday Mass at 9.30am.
Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.

We continue to pray for peace for all the people of Gaza, Israel and throughout the middle east at this time.
We pray for peace for the people of Ukraine.
"God of peace and justice, we pray for the laying down of weapons in every place of war. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that you would hold and protect them".

Let's meet . . . Mr Gavin Green, Headteacher of Fakenham Academy



Mr Green came to the school as its Deputy Head, becoming the Acting Head when the vacancy arose. He reluctantly considered applying for the Headship, because he wanted to make sure he had the exact qualities needed to run Fakenham Academy effectively. Mr Green believes pupils deserve the very best and when he accepted the position, he felt satisfied that he could make a difference for the pupils. He has been Headteacher for three and a half years. Coming from a large family whose parents valued education, he was encouraged by his mother to gain a degree in PE at Birmingham, which he enjoyed.

In his early career, he taught at schools in Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Birmingham where deprivation was high. He aspired to be a Headteacher, so that he could have wider impact and took on roles of Head of Year, Head of Department and work as Pastoral and Wellbeing Lead along the way. He has chosen not to be a deskbound Headteacher, but gets to know pupils in an active way, sometimes joining in activities and lessons.

What is the most underrated thing about Fakenham? It's a place that doesn't get enough credit. The pupils here are brilliant. They work hard and achieve.

If you could change something about yourself, what would it be? To try and realise that I cannot achieve everything straight away.

Your pet hate? Not having enough time in the day to achieve everything I want to.

Is there a person who greatly influenced you? One of my PE teachers was inspirational and I instinctively felt that I wanted to make a difference in the way that he did.

Your greatest strength? Determination, I never give up on an ideal. I've previously found that pupils from the most difficult backgrounds can do really well and when you change the culture and mindset, you are more likely to raise achievement.

What do you like best about your job? Having the ability to work in an environment where anyone can be successful and seeing the impact this can have on individuals' lives.

And the least? When I see people's perception of young people being negative, when the reality is positive.

When it comes to receiving help, who are you grateful to? Kind and supportive colleagues when I'm struggling with difficult decisions. They do help lighten the load.

Your earliest memory? Enjoying Christmas with my family. It was chaotic but lovely.

Is religious faith a part of your life? It is. My mum and dad never went to church, but my wife, whom I met at university, did. So as a family we now attend church on a regular basis.

What did you learn from your parents? Quite a few things. Apart from the value of education, they never bought things that were not needed, they believed happiness wasn't about possessions. I learnt resilience and the ability to overcome barriers by working hard and dedication.

Were they strict? Firm. I was never allowed to have a day off school, even when I hurt myself quite badly on my bike, doing a paper round. I finished the round because I knew it wasn't okay to let people down.

What concerns you about modern life? Social media and youngsters having free access to the internet. It's been allowed to infiltrate modern life with no real regulation.

How would your wife/children, colleagues describe you? Loyal, dedicated, determined and ambitious.

What do you no longer worry about? I realise that I will not be able to please everyone all of the time. If I feel it is the correct decision for the school and pupils, then I will make that decision.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to keep fit and I run, but I love being with the family and engaging with their activities.

Do you have any aspirations? To get the best outcomes for the pupils at Fakenham Academy so they can achieve their best.

What are you reading now? 'A Promised Land', Barack Obama's autobiography.

Where would you go to that you haven't been already? My parents-in-law sponsor children in Africa under a charity called Compassion. I'd like to go and see this in action.

Do you have advice you'd like to pass on? Always do what you know and believe to be the right thing. Don't let others influence your decisions.

How would you like to be remembered? As someone who cared and wanted to make a difference.

Your secret to happiness? Having integrity and being kind to others.

How long is your day? I get up at 5.30 a.m. and return home at 7.30 p.m.

And what constitutes a good day? Being around the children at school and watching their progress.

Kay Hathway



CHARITY VALUATION DAY

Sat 26 April 2025

10am- 3pm

Professional valuations.
Up to three pieces valued for £5 fee.
Bring your antiques & collectables.





Have a go at valuing a displayed antique piece for £1 a go. One winner will receive a cash prize.

Keys
Auctioneers and Valuers

Keys Fine Art Auctioneers will be happy to discuss items for inclusion in one of their public auctions.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

The 12th Fakenham Gin & Beer Festival

Fri 21 & Sat 22 March 2025.

www.fakenhambeerfest.co.uk



The event is fundraising for the **Fakenham Community Centre** and **Ellie's Love**.

Two Apostles



FAKENHAM PARISH CHURCH

In keeping with medieval church tradition, the parish church has provided an ale for the parishioners, with the help of Barsham Brewery.

Why not go along and try our ***'Two Apostles'*** ale? You will be raising worthwhile funds for local causes.

Opening times:
Friday 21st March – 7pm to 11pm
Saturday 22nd March – Noon to 11pm
Venue: Fakenham Community Centre, Oak Street

What now for the Church of England? by Revd Tracy Jessop



Being a member of the Anglican Church is challenging when there are issues within the national church that bring feelings of shame, disappointment, disbelief and anger. For months now, the Church of England has been navigating through significant issues that have brought scrutiny and criticism upon itself. There are ongoing efforts to address past failings, particularly those related to abuse, failures in safeguarding and gross misconduct, which have profoundly impacted the church's reputation and the faith of its members. There will be a new Archbishop of Canterbury in post by the autumn, who will be tasked with urgency to oversee the required changes.

The Church of England needs greater transparency, accountability, and compassionate support for victims, aiming to restore trust and integrity, especially in these times of turmoil. You would be right to ask, 'What on earth is going on?'

I want to be honest, transparent and acknowledge the shortcomings at a national level and not ignore or minimise them. It is terrible and shocking.

As your parish priest in Fakenham and Fulmodeston, I want you to be confident that your local church is a safe space. The Church should be a safe environment where all people, especially the most vulnerable, are protected from harm. This is what safeguarding is about and why it is important. We have robust safeguarding measures, do thorough background checks, have training for church staff and volunteers, and clear reporting procedures.

I am so sorry that the Church has made such a mess of past cases in various parts of England. I am sorry the Church has let so many people down, especially the victims and survivors of abuse.

The emergence of new allegations nationally in these past weeks understandably breaks trust and has a negative impact locally where so much good is already happening in proclaiming the Gospel through the worship of God and service to others. Every negative story impacts this, and re-traumatises many of those with experience of abuse.

Justice must be pursued in all cases of wrongdoing within the church. This involves not only addressing the immediate issues but also taking steps to ensure that such failures do not occur again. We must restore integrity and trust.

I do pray that you see that your local church embodies humility, integrity and compassion. Despite what you might read and see happening in the broader Church, the parishes of Fakenham and Fulmodeston remain safe places of genuine faith, service, hope, and love.



VISIT TO FULLERS MILL GARDENS SUFFOLK 13 JUNE 2025

We shall visit this lovely garden near Bury St Edmunds on Fri 13 June in a private coach leaving Fakenham at 9.30 for arrival at 10.30. It is a beautiful site of light, dappled woodland, with a plantsman's collection of unusual shrubs, perennials, lilies and marginal plants. Afterwards the coach will take us into Bury for a light lunch. There are plenty of good eateries, or you may prefer to bring a picnic to enjoy in the gardens.

There will be time to visit the cathedral or wander through the town. We aim to return to Fakenham by 18.00. Cost of the visit to include the hire of the coach and garden entrance will be in the region of £25 per person. Contact Moira Morley on 01328 855874 for further information and to make a booking.

The story of a hymn: All people that on Earth do dwell

This hymn has something of a ceremonial air about it. Based on Psalm 100, it is a strong call to worship God with a 'cheerful voice'. The author was William Kethe, a Protestant, who fled England in 1557 to escape persecution under the reign of Queen Mary I. He took refuge in Geneva, in a community which provided safe harbour to the persecuted. It is thought he was one of the scholars who translated the Geneva Bible in 1560.

He returned to England in 1561, following Queen Mary's death, and became Rector of Okeford Superior in Dorset. He became an army chaplain under the Earl of Warwick. Kethe died in 1594, and with no verified birth date, was assumed to have been born c.1530 in Scotland. The hymn was published in the English metrical Psalter in 1565. The words are themselves a universal invitation to worship God, the creator. Kethe was a notable hymn writer of the psalms, using an unusual meter and line length. The hymn is thought to have been written for an existing tune, now known as The Old Hundredth, by the French composer, Louis Bourgeois.

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Sources: Wikipedia; The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnary; Hymns Without Words

Kay Hathway



Fakenham Library Events

Wed 5 Mar 2pm

£3 - includes refreshments

Matt Howard, poet & environmentalist, will be talking about his work and reading from his latest collection, **Broadlands**, published by Bloodaxe.

Booking advisable
pop into or call the library on 01328 862715.

Ryburgh March Market and Book Sale

Sat. 29th March 9.30 - 12 noon

St. Andrew's, Great Ryburgh

Flowers for Mothering Sunday and Gifts

Details from 01328 829413

Can you deliver The Beacon?

We need deliverers in the following areas – you don't need to live there!
Thorn Rd and Heather Barrow Court
Wensum Way
Baron's Close
Greenway Lane
All help appreciated! Thank you!

FAKENHAM-OLIVET TWINNING CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 7th March 2025 6.30pm for 7.00pm
South Creake Village Hall, The Green, NR21 9PD

- **Maximum number per team – 6**
- **Bring your own drinks (and cutlery/crockery if preferred)**
- **Admission £12.50 pp Cash only please**
- **Includes Fish & Chip Supper (Gluten-free available- specify when booking)**
- **Raffle**
- **Booking essential: contact Roger: 07803 302621 cral.taylor@btinternet.com**

Age Concern

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Providing transport to Fakenham for the over 55s
Collecting from many villages, including Cley, Colkirk
Burnham Market & Weasenham, and town centre
Various weekday routes / private hire also available

Call Adrian on 07990 026839
to check on days and routes

ROSEMARY ROOMS

Dementia Support Group
The Gallow, Fakenham Racecourse
Every Monday 10.30 – 12.30.

We meet to provide a chance to socialise for people suffering from memory problems and those who are helping them.
There are refreshments, games, jigsaws and conversations.
There is disabled access.
Please contact Judith 01328 829735 or Pam 01328 829735 for more information.

Town Talk *by Wayfarer*

Many readers may have cut back on their daily exercise or have hesitated to exercise their minds. I'm trying to be different. The fact that there are footpaths by the river close to our house has helped me enjoy such attractive availability. Most days I wander in to town via these paths which open my eyes to all manner of wild life both on the water and in the sky above. I count myself lucky and reckon these excursions are more than worth the hour or so they occupy. As for the mind, that's a different equation to square. Just recently I've joined what I refer to as the 'Friday Club' up at our gym. We meet regularly, try various activities together, help ourselves to refreshments provided by the gym staff, some of whom join us from time to time. We are all what might be termed 'elderly' so the chance to socialise and talk in this way is a big plus. My intention is to learn some poetry by heart and deliver these in front of the group. So far, I have managed two. The first was six verses from the 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam', translated by English poet Edward Fitzgerald, who formerly lived in Suffolk. The second is 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear, unkindly known as a 'nonsense' poet but who was very much more than that. I realised that many were familiar with this simple but amusing piece. My third is to be 'I wandered lonely as a cloud', better known as The Daffodils by William Wordsworth. It seems the right time to do this with these arbiter of spring pushing themselves into flower all over the place. I knew the first verse from my school days but the remainder required some dedicated learning time. Wish me luck.

Wayfarer





Fakenham and District Community Archive

Despite the plans for the local pavilion to be replaced by a car park, many will be pleased by the news that a long campaign for a new swimming pool for the town has led to 11 million pounds being promised by the government, for one to be built in Trap Lane next to the Leisure Centre.
Fakenham once had pools in the Junior and Grammar schools but they had to be closed and this month's photograph from the Archive is a scene of the Fakenham swimming club inside the pool in the Grammar school in 1978. The photo was donated by Eric Mason, who was the swimming club's coach.
If you'd like to see more of the Archive's huge collection of photographs as well as browse through scrapbooks, look at displays and watch videos you can come to one of our meetings in church, from 2.00 to 4.00 on the last Tuesday of every month, as well as searching for them on the Archive website at www.fakemhamcommunityarchive.weebly.com

Howard Young



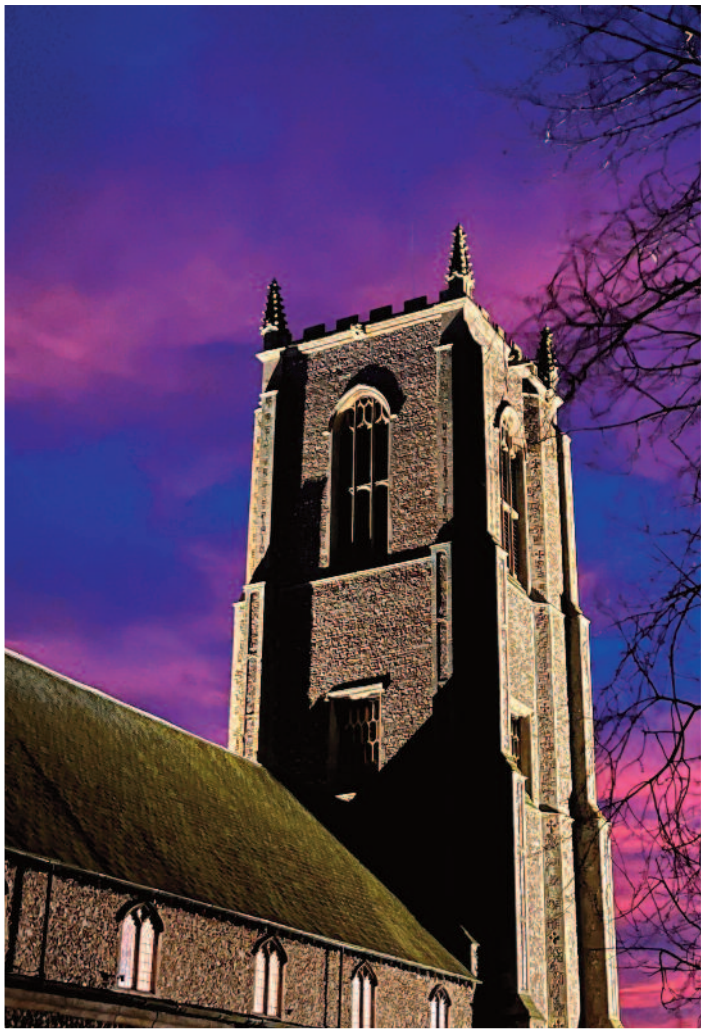
Floodlighting Sponsorship

Many people comment on the fact that it is a joy to see St Peter and St Paul Church floodlit during the evenings, especially in the dark winter months. We are launching a new fundraising scheme to help pay for the expense of this by giving donations to commemorate an occasion – perhaps celebrating a birth, a marriage, an important anniversary, or remembering a loved one no longer with us on a special day.

To keep our Church beautifully lit, we invite you to sponsor one of our floodlights for £15 a week. If you are a taxpayer please do consider gift-aiding your contribution (there is a space on the application form for this). The form gives details of how to make your sponsorship payment.

Unless you request anonymity, dedication details will be displayed on the Church noticeboard, our website and included in The Beacon.

If you would like to sponsor our floodlighting to commemorate a special person or event, please use the form available from church or on our website or call us on 01328 862268 for more information.



March Walks with Fakenham Ramblers

Saturday walks start at 10.30am. Wednesday walks begin at 10am. Bring a packed lunch on Saturday walks which are generally over 6 miles. Otherwise, sturdy boots and waterproofs are all that's required. Please arrive ten minutes or so before the walk start time..

Please contact the walk leader for up-to-date walk information.

Date & Time	Venue	Grid Reference Postcode Distance	Walk Leader(s)
Saturday 8th March 10.30am	**Roman Camp** Park/meet at Roman Camp Car Park	OS 252/ 183413 7.5 miles	**Sue & John** 01328 710138
Wednesday 12th March 10am	**Litcham Common** Park/meet at Litcham Common Car Park	OS 238/ 887173 **PE32 2QQ** 5 miles	**Lesley & Christine** 07875 177210
Saturday 22nd March 10.30am	**Sharrington** Park/meet at Sharrington Village Hall	OS 251/036371 **NR24 2AB** 8 miles	**Barbara & Richard** 01328 862834
Wednesday 26th March 10am	**Gt Massingham** Park/meet Gt Massingham Village Hall	OS 250/ 797233 **PE32 2HU** 5.7 miles	**Alison** 01328 712155

Christ Church, Fulmodeston



March Services

Sunday 2	4.00 pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 5	4.00pm Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes with Bishop Jane
Sunday 9	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 16	10.00am Parish Communion at Fakenham
Sunday 23	4.00pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 30	4.00pm Mothering Sunday Mothers and Others – come for thanks, celebration, tea and cake

We were so delighted to learn that Bishop Jane will be with us and Fakenham for Lent and Easter this year. It's a real privilege and one we will treasure.

Save the date…

And on the subject of treasure – here's an early warning of a future event. Fans of the Fakenham Church Jigsaw Fair will be glad to know that the baton has been picked up by us here at Fulmodeston. Your next chance to bring, browse and buy a great selection of pre-loved puzzles will be at Coffee at the Crossroads, this year on Saturday 2nd August. Donations of puzzling puzzles may be left either in Fakenham or Fulmodeston churches.

Carolyn Thomas-Coxhead

Town Council news

Update on VE80 celebrations

Arrangements for the 8th May VE80 celebrations are coming together well. The town council is joining with the church, whose volunteer team does such sterling work every Thursday serving refreshments, to put on events during the afternoon. So, expect lots of music and fun as well as cake!

The day starts with the Proclamation in the Marketplace at 8am. In the absence of a Town Crier, we are grateful to Richard Tree for stepping in.

At 9am the VE80 commemorative flag will be raised and flown from the Church tower.

We are asking the market stallholders to decorate their stalls, and to dress in 1940's clothing. Popular busker, Terry Adams will be performing music from the wartime era during the morning.

In the afternoon everyone is invited to St Peter's gardens to picnic whilst listening to local choirs performing, and the 1940's Tribute act, Miss Kitty. To close the event, the Salvation Army Band will forsake their usual programme to play swing music. Expect some Glenn Miller tunes to hum along to during an afternoon celebrating the end of six long years of war.

Bishop Jane visits Creake Road Cemetery

On a dreadfully windy and wet day at the end of January, the Bishop of Lynn came to the council's cemetery at Creake Road to consecrate a piece of land that will almost double the size of the site. The original site has very few grave spaces left in it and, despite the costs involved, the work now needs to be done.

Along with our Rector, the Reverend Tracy Jessop and two representatives from the town council, Bishop Jane conducted a service before beating the bounds of the extension, blessing it at regular intervals with the sign of the cross made with her crozier. We are grateful to her for attending and conducting the service in such awful weather, but with tremendous style and enthusiasm!

Angela Glynn, Chairman, Fakenham Town Council

Old Fakenhamian

Back in 1988, after a failed marriage, I returned home, with my two-year old son, to Sculthorpe to stay with my parents, Alf and Dorothy Mace. Knowing that there would be no support from the father of my son, I decided to set up a business to make sure that our future would be secure. Having had a career in fashion, I set up 'Gilly's of Burnham Market' and bought a house in Queen's Road in Fakenham. Burnham Market at that time was a wonderful village full of independent shops and businesses, not a chain in sight and all run by people who lived in the village or at least nearby. And so it was for many years until slowly, but inexorably, the nature of the village changed as it became more popular with visitors and second home owners and became what it is today.

One day a visiting customer said to me: "Oh Gilly, we love Burnham Market, where in the village do you live?" I replied: "Nowadays I would not live here if you paid me". She looked astonished and asked me where I lived. I replied 'Fakenham. She was aghast and said "Fakenham?!!" I said "Yes, Fakenham is a working town with an excellent community, which sadly Burnham Market is slowly ceasing to be."

So, here I go again in praise of Fakenham. When I visit our coastal villages such as the Burnhams and Sedgeford, Docking and Binham, they are dead for many months of the year except during the holiday seasons when they are overrun with tourists and second-home owners. It is fascinating to arrive back in Fakenham and see how much is going on, people walking the pavements on their way to and from the town centre, children being taken to and collected from school. It is alive with people. I love to see our townspeople stopping and passing the time of day and greeting each other or having a 'mardle'. We are awash with community activities from our many local charities, our sports and social clubs and events and outreach groups, many in our beautiful Parish Church and many others in the Gallow.

Alas, what we thought were timeless village communities are being lost as the price of property is no longer affordable for local people and because of the changes in agriculture, for example, there are no longer the jobs that kept these communities alive. Of course, it is no good bewailing this loss as it is 'time's winged chariot hurrying by'. Fakenham itself is like market towns throughout the country: retail struggles against the power of the internet and what used to be shops are mostly eateries or reverting to the domestic dwellings that they once were. But, I still say that we are blessed to live in this town with its many wonderful assets and that we should always celebrate the strong sense of community which we all share. Long may it continue.

Gilly Foortse

Fakenham branch of the Mothers' Union donate to Fakenham First Responders.



Eunice Norwood (L) and Sue Poole (R) hand over equipment to Christine Wheeler.

Photo by Kay Hathway



New to Fakenham?
Hoping to make new friends?

We have a thriving Mothers' Union at Fakenham Parish Church.

Come and meet us
you will be warmly welcomed!
Meetings on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Trinity Room in the Church.

Open Meetings to which everyone is welcome!

Would like a chat beforehand?
Contact Eunice on 01328 855665

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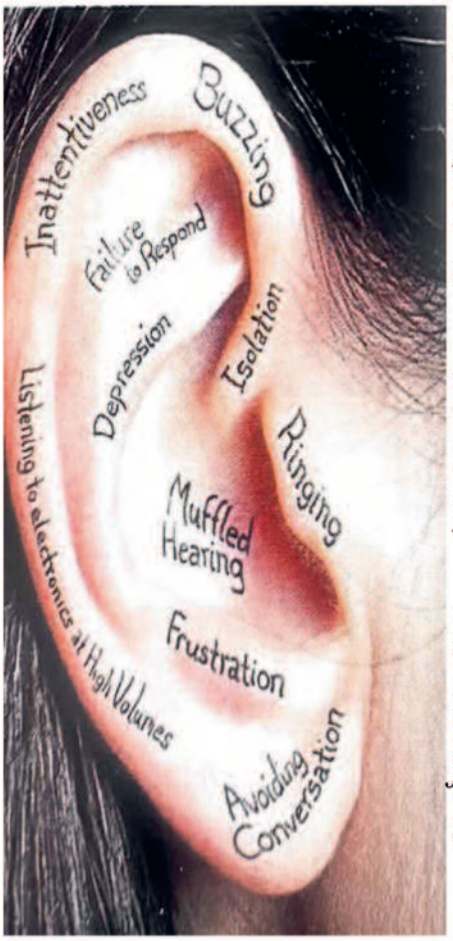
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